Promoting Watershed Education in Your Community

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EnviroScape® watershed education models are available for use by county Extension offices, conservation districts, community organizations, local governments, and local schools in promoting awareness and understanding of water quality protection issues.

These three-dimensional landscape models are hands-on learning tools that connect what we do on land to what happens in our rivers, lakes, and groundwater.

The models include a follow-up demonstration that shows how to prevent water pollution through the use of best management practices, emphasizing to people of all ages that we share responsibilities for preventing water pollution. EnviroScape® models are ideal for use at water festivals, county fairs, Earth Day activities, organizational meetings, school science fairs, and other events. A user's guide and video accompany each model to aid facilitators in presenting a demonstration.

The Non-point Source model shows pollution from residential areas, forestry, transportation, recreation, agriculture, construction, as well as from industry as a point source. Pollution and runoff are visually apparent when rain carries soil (cocoa), chemicals (colored drink mixes) and oil (cocoa and water mixture) through the watershed to a pond, lake, river, or ocean.

The Wetlands model demonstrates the basic functions and values of wetlands. Learn how to recognize different types of wetlands, understand what activities



Students learn about water management from the EnviroScope models.

negatively affect wetlands, and what activities can help to conserve wetlands.

The Hazardous Materials model shows potential sources of pollution from hazardous materials and waste; proper use and disposal options for hazardous materials; prevention practices to keep hazardous materials from adversely affecting the environment; methods used to clean up hazardous waste sites; and environmental and health risks associated with contamination.

The Groundwater Kit demonstrates how groundwater works, how it is used and polluted, and how we can prevent and clean up groundwater contamination.

The Riparian Kit shows the benefits of riparian buffers – areas including trees and other vegetation adjacent to the banks of streams, rivers and lakes. The kit explores the positive effects of good riparian buffers as well as activities that contribute to poor riparian buffer zones.

Funding for the EnviroScape® models was provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under the Clean Water Act Section 319 Non-point Source Pollution Control Program, administered by the Kansas Department of Health & Environment – Watershed Management Section.

For more information, or to checkout an EnviroScape® model, contact Laura Downey at the Kansas Association for Conservation and Environmental Education at 785-532-3322 or e-mail Laura Downey.